

20 March 1953

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MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

SUBJECT : Jury Duty

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1. [REDACTED] senior member of the Board of National Estimates of my Office, has been called for jury duty as of 1 April 1953. To lose [REDACTED] services at this particular time would gravely damage the effectiveness of the Board.

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2. As you know, the Board of National Estimates is responsible to the Director of Central Intelligence for the preparation of National Intelligence Estimates. These documents in final form represent the best coordinated thinking of the entire national intelligence community, and are prepared at the request of and for use by the President and members of the National Security Council. They constitute the intelligence ingredient to the formulation of top foreign policy.

3. The Board, as presently constituted, consists of seven regular members and two consultants. Of this total of nine, two and probably three will be leaving service with the Board shortly. The matter of finding their replacements is very difficult and will require time. A fourth member is on a special detail to a National Security Council project which will deprive the Board of his services for another six or eight weeks. A fifth member is abroad and will not return until early in April. I, myself, must be out of the country during April and May. What this amounts to is that the Board will be in a relatively weak position from now until the early fall, when presumably we will have been able to make appropriate replacements.

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4. As chairman of the Board, I am appalled at the prospect which faces us even without the loss of [REDACTED] services. The new Administration has placed an unusually heavy load upon the intelligence community and gives every promise of continuing to do so. It is unnecessary to

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mention that the President is accustomed to the intelligence support and relies more heavily upon it than would a man of a strictly civilian background.

5. Since the Board of National Estimates plays a critical role in producing the kind of intelligence documents required by the new Administration, to add at this time to the difficulties of the Board is a matter to be avoided at all costs.

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SHERMAN KENT
Assistant Director
National Estimates

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